

26 Rue de Rivoli

Jan. 22. '57

Wednesday

My dear husband,

I have safely
arrived last night at 12 o'clock
and I cannot stop to tell you
much of our story now, as I
write to go by today's mail; so
that you may read that half
what I journal & these two little
letters by cleaver this week, for
I find there is no time - I must wait
journal later when I can write
more at leisure.

Many thanks for the letters,
received today & I shall be
certainly very glad. Pray remember
me most gratefully to them.

Jan. 20th - 57

24

(3)

Perhaps you would like me to see how I have come in our selected portions, but in truth I write & send the sheets, as finished, to Dr. Gray to give an account of all my proceedings - And I am really very lazy about writing, for it is so hard to find the right moment - Now I have taken to getting up early in the morning & writing them -

I ought to have said under the head of "News", that I received enclosed from Dr. Gray the week's letters. Many thanks to Nancy for the very long & interesting letter about Grandfather - then to you, & me. I am sure I agree with you children. Have too many presents now-a-days, & don't value them half enough - Oh thank you, thank you Lizzie & Patrick most heartily, for the depresso types! I shall send for them as soon as I get back to England, unless Dr. Gray has sent already - And now I shall doat upon them! - You believe the carved box & the little leather satchel I got some - I do believe I was sick of the seal of your letter to lighten the weight before I read it, so you must send it me again - Little seems to get in conversation with her children. How sad the delay of the Atlantic, the news of which we received Sunday. I am quite disappointed, for there was a very amount of journals in my case, & the spider mitts for Lizzie & Mother, & I thought this week I should hear how you liked them - But such disappointments are nothing compared to the sad trial it must be to the Portons, for they say Charles Porton was ~~in~~ he is to go home to Louisa's wedding; & now she was 6 weeks out, & no steamer sailed Saturday to tell of her arrival at Cork, & not until next Saturday - And the wedding was to have been this week, they say! They will have 6 weeks of suspense, & give her up for lost! We all grieve for them -

But to get back to journal - Friday morn. Everything came at once, for it was the day there are so many lessons in the house, & the dressmaker came to try on my dress & the milliner brought home my head-dress, & the music-master was giving a lesson, & a young Whiting Aunt Lizzie & I laces in the Salon - I must tell you what busy people they are here - Ella is up at 6 1/2 to practice every morn. - Breakfast comes Rescatus' French master, & at present Uncle Charles shares the lessons - Eliza & Sarah's governess comes to them in their chamber from 10 to 1; all their lessons are done in French - Then Ella takes music lessons, & has with take dancing lessons - Lizzie takes French lessons at the house of a young friend, & has music lessons at home, & said Italian lessons, but her master died suddenly, & she does not take another while I am here - Uncle's as well has lessons in the afternoon in Italian, & went Lizzie

Augustus has lessons in shorthand, but I don't know how many others
was taking French lessons until I came. That is all I can remember
at present - Uncle Lowell you know is quite at home in French,
Lizzie & Ella both speak well & easily, & I suppose know, unless she is afraid,
& little Sally can talk easily - but Lizzie says she knows nothing,
but manages to understand pretty much all that is said, & to say
pretty much all she wishes - I tell her I think I have done her
a great deal of good; for by pretending to know something of the law
I save myself, we venture out shopping alone, & then she is forced
to speak & understand for herself - I can understand generally.
But my speaking is "effused" - Friday, when Lizzie's music
lesson was through, she sent Lizzie & myself out in the
carnage - First we drove by the Place de la Concorde, of which you
have so often seen plates, & which give but a poor idea of its mag-
nificence, with its mountains, columns, statues &c. - Opening from it
is the Champs Elysees, a sort of grove with avenues leading through
it, one very broad with a walk upon each side & ending in
the magnificent Triumphant Arch of Napoleon - ^{or the Grand Arnie} Here is the grand
promenade for walking & driving - And on a bright day you see
handsome equipages driving up & down, & riders on horseback, & the
bottles covered with ladies & cavaliers, nurses & childrens - The
equipages are not as handsome on the whole as in England - It is
now not so favorable a season of the year to see Paris, for the streets
are muddy & dirty, but the architecture of the private buildings
is handsome, more varied & ornate than in London, & there
are so many fine places, & columns, & buildings, & monuments -
The Boulevards are very handsome - They are wide streets,
very wide, & with very wide side-walks, & handsome shops all
along with gay displays in the windows, & the pavement crowd-
ed with passengers in every variety of dress - & along the curbstones
all sorts of little traffics going on, in cakes kept hot over a pan on a
tray, hot roasted chestnuts in the same way, small wares, &c. &c.
Some of the best shops are not on the Boulevards but in streets
more retired, & no display in the windows, some indeed are up
stairs on the first floor, so that without the address you would
never find them - I suppose on the whole I am disappointed in
the shopping - We fancy every thing is cheap in Paris, but it is not so -
You can get beautiful things, but you must pay a high price - Not

higher than one would at home, for you could not get such things
at home - Gloves you can get for various prices - very fair at 36 cts
as nice as I want ever at 50 cts, beautiful at 75 - Shoes are not
enough cheaper to make it worth while, or boots either - Silks are
cheaper as far as I can tell, ~~cheaper~~ my watered silk, which
looks very rich, at 1.30, but they had them up to 1.75, & super-
ones in a different style, more antique, for 2.20 - Lace is much
cheaper - but then no one here thinks of wearing anything imi-
tation - I got a ^{single} lace fichu for my head, the shape of your black,
Lizzie, simple but pretty for 6.00 - It is as full dress as I ever want -
Bonnets I should think were cheaper - But I should think
my head-dress cost the same as at home - 4.50 To be sure it is pretty
I suited to me - Artificial flowers are cheaper - You can get a head-
some wreath, & bouquet for the bosom, for 2.00 - Paper is very much
cheaper - Half price at the very least - Now I wish anyone who
has commissions would write at once, & give me very particular
directions - Then if I do not understand, I shall have time to
make new enquiries - They dye here & clean old silks & satins &
velvets, beautifully - They will ask \$5.00 for dyeing my crape-
shawl, but say it shall be as good as new - And that is not too
much for a new shawl - They have superb laces black & white
But what a wandering while we were driving down the
Champs Elysees! - When we came back we went to make some
calls, for the custom here is to call first - So we left cards on Mrs.
Thorndike, Mrs. Hainwright, & Mrs. Stinson - Then got in at Madame
Fry's - She is truly an original - Her husband is brother to Victor Hugo
& a Baron, so she writes herself Comtesse - She looks like one of
those priests in their long petticoats, she is so large & masculine in
appearance, & her dress is so simple - but it is interesting to hear
her talk, for she seems a person of a good deal of information &
talent, the room was ornamented with her oil paintings, & she seemed
familiar with the literature of many countries. She received Lizzie
& Lizzie in the French fashion, with a kiss on each cheek, &
to my astonishment, favored me with a kiss when I went away -
Saturday morning Lizzie & I went out with the determination to
do as much as possible & finish up the shopping - So we got, lace &
a hood (don't fancy anything wonderful, pretty & French, it is only conven-
ient) & paper &c. &c. - Then we came back to dine, we dine at 5 1/2 -

Mrs. Augustus Thorndike & Mrs. Calvert called when Aunt Lizzie was gone
to make some calls, but I saw them - Mrs. Calvert conversed with
Aunt Anna, & says she is very low-spirited - And wants to go home
in April - Saturday evening we went to the theatre, les Variétés, and
saw some excellent little pieces well acted - I could not follow quite
so readily as I thought I should, but it is capital discipline in un-
derstanding French - The characters were so well dressed, & the scenery
so good & all so good in their different parts, that it was very amu-
sing - The ladies were dressed, rationally as ladies, & one piece, rep-
resenting young cavaliers about the time of Louis XV was excellent -
Wednesday, Jan. 29th

Sunday, 30th. Uncle Lowell, Aunt Lizzie, & myself went to the
Trinité, which is the French Protestant church where the most dis-
tinguished preachers alternate - Coquerel preached the Sunday before;
I should like to have heard him - He heard a preacher who
was very eloquent, & the manner, which would seem extravagant
& too excited in English, sounds fervent & earnest & is very touching
in French. His text was all the beatitudes - And his sermon on
happiness as the desire of every human soul, & our various promises
that happiness should be given - "Blessed" is "Beaucoup" in French, so
that the text came with the more force - It was a fine sermon,
nothing doctrinal in it, & I could easily understand all. The
seats are all free throughout the church, which is not imposing in
appearance - You give a trifle to a woman for a shoe for
your feet & the book of Psalms. After church in the afternoon
we had a drive through the Boulevards & the Champs Elysées
Madme. Hays had been in despair, that she had not known until the
day we called there, that Aunt Lizzie had a son - And said she
should call Sunday evg. to make the acquaintance of Augustus. So
she came in the P.M. & her sister Madme. Louis, the wife of Louis
the physician, came also - She is very handsome & dresses very
brilliant, quite in contrast with Madme. Hays - But they were both
entertaining - I like to sit quietly by & listen - ^{Aunt Lizzie's parents} ~~They~~ know a good
many French people here, & have a pleasant circle of acquaintances,
& there are a great many Americans at Paris - But Aunt Lizzie
does not like French society - The marriages are in truth more
business arrangements, made ^{by} to please the parents - And young folks are
scarcely noticed until they are married, & then are suddenly allowed
to do quite as they please - But my paper comes to the end, & I
have written as much as I will hold, & must save Monday's visit
to Versailles for the next letter - Most tender love to all, from your ever
aff. Jane